

SECRET

22 January 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SR

SUBJECT : Latest Information Received on the Existence of an Underground Movement in the USSR

SOURCE : An American naturalized citizen, female about 55 years of age, born and reared in the Western Ukraine, emigrated to the United States in 1937.

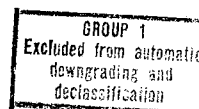
1. The source visited in the USSR in the late summer of 1963, to do research on international relations under the State Department special research exchange agreement, and to visit her relatives. The following information was reported by her to AECASSOWARY/29. She told him she was passing this information along to him only after checking on the AECASSOWARY organization with the FBI and CIA and because, in her own mind, she felt it was the best Ukrainian emigre group.

2. Having been educated by the Basilian Order of nuns, the source has maintained a close relationship with nuns and priests of the Order in the West. En route to the USSR, she was accompanied to Rome and Poland by a close friend, a Mother Superior of the Basilian Order in New York. Through a Basilian nun in Lvov, the source was put in touch with a Ukrainian Catholic priest in Lvov who personally escorted her to, and introduced her to an underground leader (X) in Lvov who talked to her about the underground.

3. X asked the source to establish a contact for them in the West from which they could eventually receive political and material help. He said they were eager to convince Americans that there was a Ukrainian underground and that it was active. He was critical of U. S. foreign policy, calling it short-sighted and passive and, therefore, felt it would be better to establish contact with a Ukrainian political group in the West. He told the source that the underground was stronger in Eastern Ukraine than in the Western Ukraine, and that it had supporters way out in Siberia. Although the underground presently is an informal organization, its leadership is tightly knit and is operating with the help of couriers moving all over the country maintaining contact with the more important members of the rank and file. X said that a leader might not have an organized net in a particular area but that he could muster 20-25 trusted people to do a job when necessary. The underground would refuse to submit to any leadership from abroad because they in the Ukraine are more knowledgeable of the

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situation at any given time. They went from the West such things as warm clothing, good shoes and boots for their couriers, plus nylons which they could sell to obtain money needed to carry on their activities. X told the source that the underground's main task presently is in the political and propaganda field, not in terrorist activities. They must fight against the Russification in the Ukraine and preserve the Ukrainian human potential for the future, and revive a religious feeling among the Ukrainian people. He said the struggle for the church is inseparable from the political struggle of the Ukrainian nation. According to him, the Ukrainian underground has access to the highest Government and Party officials. He cited the case of a man in a high Party post in Lvov who has helped them.

4. The source talked with a priest of the Studyt Order in Lvov who gave her the manuscript of an appeal he made to the Soviet Government officials in which he complained about being sentenced to prison because of his religious beliefs. The source was told the manuscript could be published in the West.

5. The source was asked to return to the Ukraine after she has been able to establish a contact in the West for the underground. She was given instructions on how to conduct herself while in the Soviet Union and after her return to the United States in order not to compromise herself. If she is unable to return to the USSR, she is to establish contact with the Ukrainian underground through a Basilian nun in Poland, via the latter's sister who is not witting of the source's involvement.

6. The source brought out photographs of the nuns connected with the underground and a list of all the remaining Basilian nuns in the Ukraine and their present addresses. The nuns, of course, dress as lay people and work at various jobs to support themselves. The Studyt Order, according to source, receives aid from supporters in Canada and seems to have fared better than the Basilian sisters in the Ukraine.

7. A/29 and A/2 plan to talk further with the source after more careful study of the information already received from her.

[SR/CA/E]